

Disability Awareness Commission
Minutes
First Floor Conference Room, City Hall
June 18, 2014 3:00pm

Call to Order

Staff member Garry called the meeting to order at 3:01P.M.

Commission members present: Deb Aden, Kendra Gottsleben, Michelle Grimm, Sarah Jo Jorgenson, Lori Lewison (3:07), Sheila Sandness, and Walt Schaefer.

Commission members absent: Chelle Hart and Kevin Horner

Staff present: Carol Garry, Human Relations Technician

Guest(s) present:

Welcome Guest(s) & New Members

Roundtable introductions with new members and Commission members present.

Sarah Jo Jorgenson is the Peer Support Program and Intake Coordinator at Independent Living Choices (ILC). Deb Aden is a professor with USD in their Masters of Social Work Program.

A brief explanation of the DAC's various programs was provided to the new Commission members.

Approval of Minutes

Sandness moved to approve the meeting minutes from May 21, 2014, Gottsleben seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Continuing Business

Committees – Updates

25th Anniversary of the ADA - Lori Lewison, Kendra Gottsleben, Vicki Nelson, and Michelle Grimm

No further planning/action has taken place. We need to start if we hope to have something set for this fall. Garry spoke of seeing information about a disabled veterans' golf event, maybe we could partner with them.

New Business

Election of Officers:

The annual election of officers in January was tabled until the expected new members were on board. We will keep with the co-chair set-up with a third officer.

Aden moved to nominate Walt Schaefer and Michelle Grimm as the co-chairs. Gottsleben provided the second. The motion passed with an unanimous vote of the members present.

Sandness moved to nominate Lori Lewison as the third officer, seconded by Gottsleben. The motion passed unanimously.

HRC Report

No May meeting, no report. The HRC participated at the Cinco de Mayo event.

Roundtable/Public Comment

Sandness – Sheila tried kayaking at the recent adaptive kayaking/canoeing event. She said it wasn't as cool as skiing, but it was close.

Schaefer – LifeScape has a lot of events coming up. They recently had the Tablescaapes fundraiser.

He has ridden his bike to work for ten days straight – needed some help through Monday's storm.

Lewison – At work there is a lull before the RFP processes start for renewals. Time spent with clients has increased due to the recent changes. She is hiring a new assistant to help with the workload.

At LifeScape, Color Vibe is June 21, and the Family Wellness 5k is coming up. The golf tournament is July 22.

She is getting a power generator with her neighbor so their sump pumps will work if the power goes out.

Gottsleben – The Center for Disabilities will be having two technical assistance trainings this summer. One will be in Rapid City and the one in Sioux Falls will be in July.

She is going to Boston where she will participate on a patient advisory board.

Jorgenson – At ILC it is time for the summer transition course. Students ages 16 – 21 attend classes to learn how to live independently. They visit Hy-Vee to see about jobs, tour & clean an apartment to see what it's like to have your own place and the responsibilities involved. Today they went to a Canaries game. They will have an ADA Celebration picnic again this year for their clients and would like a proclamation (Mayor preferred, but appreciate Colleen providing).

Aden – The Masters in Social Work previous class had 25, all now have jobs using their degree. The current class has 32 and she is actively working to get them placed. Wages are going up – a positive sign. The class starting in the fall will have 72 – 80 and she will need to find employers where they can intern. She recently got an assistant – YEA!

Grimm – Southeastern’s Directions for Life Take 5 - after school program is expanding for the summer to keep the students busy during the summer months.

She will be graduating with a Masters in Human Resources in August – no more homework!

Garry – Humanitarian Award will be October 23rd this year. We hope to have the DAC provide some nominations. Jorgenson is a past nominee – nominated by Sandness.

Public Comment: No comments.

Adjournment

Having no further business, Schaefer moved to adjourn, Lewison seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

The next DAC meeting is scheduled for July 16, 3p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room, City Hall.

These minutes submitted by Carol Garry.